

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 123877
ORIGIN SS-25

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O 160414Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 123877

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE' FROM SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, XF

SUBJECT: MESSAGE ON AIRCRAFT SALE

1. TEXT OF WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT BEING SENT SEPTTEL. PURPOSE WAS TO PUT TENSION OF RECENT DAYS BEHIND US, TO PROVIDE REASSURANCE WHERE NECESSARY, AND TO TURN ATTENTION AGAIN TO THE FUTURE AND TO THE PEACE PROCESS. WILL EACH ADDRESSEE PLEASE ASSURE FULL TEXT IS IN HANDS OF KEY OFFICIALS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TUESDAY AND CARRY OUT INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.

2. FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS: MESSAGE FOR PRIME MINISTER WILL BE SENT TUESDAY. IN MEANTIME, WE MUST DO WHAT WE CAN TO PREVENT DAMAGING OVERREACTION IN ISRAEL, ESPECIALLY IN CABINET. THEREFORE, PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING POINTS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO PRIME MINISTER AND OTHERS AS EARLY AS YOU CAN: DECISION
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ON AIRCRAFT SALES IS NOW BEHIND US. WE WANT PRIME MINISTER AND OTHERS TO KNOW THAT, WHATEVER DIFFERING VIEWS MAY HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED, WE REMAIN COMMITTED BESIDE ISRAEL TO THE COMMON OBJECTIVE OF PEACE WITH SECURITY AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH ISRAEL TOWARDS THAT END. AS WE HAVE SAID ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ISRAEL IS NOT REPEAT NOT THREATENED BY THIS DE-

CISION. WE BELIEVE IT WILL MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO
THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT ARE ESSENTIAL AS WE MOVE TOWARD
A SECURE PEACE.

3. FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS: PLEASE GET A BRIEF WORD TO
SADAT THROUGH MUBARAK OR OTHER APPROPRIATE CHANNELS
ALONG FOLLOWING LINES WHICH YOU CAN SUPPLEMENT WEDNESDAY
WHEN YOU SEE SADAT: WE REGARD THE VOTE MONDAY NIGHT IN
THE SENATE AS A NECESSARY AND IMPORTANT STEP IN DEVELOP-
ING UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR THE PEACE PROCESS. WE
APPRECIATE THE ROLE PRESIDENT SADAT HAS PLAYED IN WIDENING
THAT UNDERSTANDING. WE WILL BE ADOPTING A CONCILIATORY
POSTURE TOWARD THOSE WHO FEEL THEY LOST IN LAST NIGHTS VOTE
AND VERY MUCH HOPE PRESIDENT SADAT WILL ENCOURAGE HIS COLL-
EAGUES AND PRESS TO DO THE SAME. THE IMPORTANT JOB NOW
IS TO MOVE THE PEACE PROCESS FORWARD.

4. FOR CHARGE' WILEY: ANSWER TO KING KHALID'S MOST HELP-
FUL LETTER WILL BE SENT SOON. IN MEANTIME, PLEASE ASK
THAT FOLLOWING POINTS BE CONVEYED TO KING AND CROWN
PRINCE: WE ARE GRATIFIED BY POSITIVE VOTE IN SENATE LAST
NIGHT ON AIRCRAFT SALES AND BELIEVE THIS IS AN IMPORTNAT
MILESTONE IN THE U.S.-SAUDI RELATIONSHIPS. OUR CLOSE
COOPERATION IN ACHIEVING THIS RESULT CAN PROVIDE STRONG
FOUNDATION FOR FURTHER STRENGTHENING OUR COOPERATION IN
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PURSUING OUR COMMON INTEREST. WE WILL BE ADOPTING A
CONCILIATORY POSTURE TOWARD THOSE WHO FEEL THEY LOST IN
LAST NIGHTS VOTE AND VERY MUCH HOPE SAUDI GOVERNMENT WILL
ENCOURAGE ITS MEMBERS AND PRESS TO DO THE SAME. IMPORTNAT
JOB NOW IS TO MOVE PEACE PROCESS FORWARD. VANCE

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